

Stop the Murder Trial! Support the Berlin 7!

Prozeßbüro

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Dieffenbachstraße 33
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– September 1994 –

Dear anti-fascist friends and human rights activists!

We would like to thank you all for your tremendous support. The joint day of action was a big success. Heart-felt thanks also from the accused. Your actions gave them lots of strength. With the aid of the international actions and the international trial observers, the media black-out here has been broken and an objective form of reporting is finding its way into the media.

The feared exclusion of the public from the trial did not happen. The presiding judge, Eschenhagen, noted that there seemed to be a great deal of international public interest in the trial, and that therefore she would not exclude the public from the trial.

Days 1 And 2 Of The Trial

On Tuesday, September 20, the trial opened with a rally in front of the court building. The proceedings could only begin after a two hour delay, because the Berlin police had surrounded the building and would not allow a sufficient number of spectators into the court. Therefore, the charges could not be read during the first day of the proceedings, which then had to be broken off early because the psychologically-ill Erkan Sonmez was in poor health. Inside the courtroom, the spectators sang "Happy Birthday" for Mehmet Ramme, who turned 32 that day. It was obvious also that everyone was very happy to see their friends again.

The charges were read on the second day of the trial on September 27. Political statements from defendants Fatma Balamir and Abidin Eraslan were also read. Abidin claimed that he didn't take part in the actions and that the charge against him is completely wrong. We will be sending the statements in a future mailing.

The International Trial Observers

The following people travelled to Berlin to observe the trial: Yuksel Hos from the Turkish human rights organization IHD, Mike Luft from "Searchlight" magazine in Great Britain, Leonard Weinglass, an American lawyer and a member of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and Gloria Echeveste and Julio Peralta of the MLN-Tupamaros from Uruguay.

On Tuesday evening after the trial opened, the international observers, along with one of the lawyers and Ulla Jelpke (member of parliament for the leftist PDS party),

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held an information event which close to 300 people attended. After discussions with the team of lawyers after the opening day of the trial, the international observers issued a joint statement.

Unfortunately, we must report that Carlo Blietz (27) has been detained in unbearable conditions. At first, he was put in a cell which had swastikas graffittied onto the walls. After he protested, he was placed in a cell without any electricity. He has had packages withheld, and he is only allowed non-contact visits with his girlfriend (30 minutes every two weeks).

The prisoners would like to say thanks for the many cards and letters they have received. They aren't always able to respond, however, because the prison officials often refuse to give them the envelopes on which the return address is written. Please write your return address on the letter itself so that you can receive an answer!

International Solidarity Actions

On the evening before the trial opened, 2000 people took part in a solidarity demonstration in the Kreuzberg section of Berlin. There were also rallies in front of German consulates in several European cities as well as in Washington D.C., and letters were sent to German establishments, including to the court itself.

In **Barcelona**, 150 anti-fascists demonstrated outside the German consulate, and in **Valencia**, 50 activists hung a banner outside the German consulate. In **France**, the "Solidarite Resistance Antifa" organized a rally of 80 people outside the German embassy in **Paris**, where a protest resolution was handed over. In **Lyon**, 40 people occupied a room in the Goethe Institute for one hour. In **Lille**, 30 people demonstrated outside the German consulate, while in **Nantes**, a leafletting action in the city center had to be called off due to heavy rain showers. In **Bourges**, a solidarity concert was held and in **Rennes** a day of action. In Norway, there were protest actions in **Bergen** and **Tromso**. Petitions were also handed over to the German embassies in **Copenhagen** and **Stockholm**. There was also supposed to be a rally outside the German embassy in **Helsinki**, but we have not yet received a report of this action. The same is true for **Amsterdam** and **Rotterdam**. In **Manchester**, there was a picket in front of the German consulate, and in **Newcastle**, there was a rally of 50 people in the city center, during which petition signatures were collected. In **Washington D.C.**, the Students Coalition Against Racism (SCAR) held a noisy rally outside the German consulate, and in **Vienna**, protesters marched past the German embassy. There were also solidarity actions in neighboring Switzerland, a rally in front of the German Chamber of Commerce and several leafletting actions in trains with destination Germany. Protest actions were not only organized by Western antifas, but also in the Polish city of **Wroclaw** there was a rally outside the German consulate. Protest resolutions were also sent to the court from **Canada**, and there were media reports in several countries concerning the trial and its background.

Sincerely, International Solidarity Group

The following days of the trials will be on tuesdays and fridays: 30.9.; 4.10.; 7.10.; 11.10.; 18.10.; 21.10.; 25.10.; 28.10.; 1.11.; 4.11.; 8.11.; 11.11.; 15.11.; 18.11.; 22.11.; 25.11.; 29.11.; 2.12.; 6.12.

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